

Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-11 SAM-01 SAJ-01

AID-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02 NEA-10 /095 W

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Z 030835Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 3066

SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ANKARA 2587

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: TASK FORCE 61 TRAINING ANCHORAGE AT ANTALYA

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED URGENT REQUEST FROM SIXTH FLEET THAT WE ASK GOT FOR PERMISSION TO ANCHOR AT ANTALYA BEGINNING TOMORROW (APRIL 4) SEVEN VESSELS FROM TASK FORCE 61, WHICH ARE ON STANDBY FOR EVACUATION OF U.S. CITIZENS IN BEIRUT. ALTHOUGH THESE SHIPS WILL NOT REQUIRE LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND SHORE LIBERTY WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED, THEIR NUMBERS, THE SORT NOTICE GIVEN AND THEIR MISSION (WHICH COULD NOT BE HIDDEN) WILL DRAW IMMEDIATE POLITICAL ATTENTION HERE. DESPITE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THE MISSION, THERE IS STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT GOT WILL REFUSE REQUEST AND SOMEWHAT SMALLER POSSIBILITY THAT IT MIGHT BECOME ISSUE IN CURRENT DEBATE OVER NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR REASONS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH TWO BELOW. BEFORE TAKING THIS REQUEST TO THE GOT, THEREFORE, WE WISH ASSURANCES THAT ALL OTHER ALTERNATIVES OF SUPPORTING THIS TASK FORCE HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED.

2. IN RECENT BASE NEGOTIATIONS, TURKS MADE CLEAR THAT USE OF TURKISH FACILITIES FOR NON-NATO, THIRD COUNTRY OPERATIONS WOULD IN MOST INSTANCES REQUIRE AD HOC APPROVAL OF CABINET. ALTHOUGH THIS POSITION WAS TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION OF AERIAL PORT AT

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INCIRLIK, IT WOULD LOGICALLY BE EXTENDED TO ALL TURKISH

FACILITIES. PRESENT CABINET CONTAINS HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC, PRO-MOSLEM REPRESENTATIVES OF NSP PARTY WHO WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BALK AT PRESENCE IN TURKISH WATERS OF U.S. WARSHIPS WITH MIDDLE EAST MISSION, HOWEVER THIS MISSION MIGHT BE DEFINED BY US. PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER MODERATE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY BE DEFENDING NEW BASE AGREEMENT BEFORE PARLIAMENT AND WILL THEREFORE BE UNWILLING TO INCUR UNNECESSARY POLITICAL RISKS. IF FOREIGN MINISTRY OR TURKISH GENERAL STAFF TAKES REQUEST FOR TRAINING ANCHORAGE TO CABINET, AS APPEARS LIKELY, CHANCES OF AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE, THEREFORE, ARE NOT REPEAT NOT GOOD.

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Message Attributes

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